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NCEA 30 Day Outlook 8-16-17.docx

**National Center for Environmental Assessment
Weekly Report for August 16th, 2017**

Notables listed below and 30-day Outlook attached.

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PUBLIC ACTIVITIES

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Colombian Ministry of Environment teleconference. On August 15th, NCEA scientists and colleagues from OAR/OAQPS-HEID participated in a teleconference advising the Colombian Ministry of Environment on how to revise their air quality standards for criteria air pollutants. Specific topics of discussion included the utility of “correcting” concentrations measured at monitors for standard temperature and pressure (STP) in high altitude cities in Colombia (Bogota, Medellin, Cali), which are 8,000 ft (or more) above sea level.

OAQPS meeting and discussion. On August 17th, NCEA scientists will participate in a meeting with Dr. Bernhard Schmid (Swiss Ecologist) on how biodiversity changes may affect ecosystem services. This work will inform the Risk and Exposure Assessment and Policy Assessment for NO_x-SO_x-PM eco.

10th World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences. On August 20 – 24, NCEA scientists will be participating in the 10th World Congress on Alternatives and Animal use in the Life Sciences, in Seattle, WA. Presentations include “Application of Read-Across in Quantitative Chemical Risk Assessment in a Regulatory Setting,” and “The Rise of Systematic Review in Environmental Health Sciences.”

“Towards Global Elimination of the Acute Toxicity ‘six-pack’” International Workshop.

On August 20th, Annie Jarabek will participate as an invited expert delegate in Seattle, WA. The workshop is hosted by the United Kingdom's National Centre for the Replacement Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) in collaboration with the US National Toxicology Program (NTP) Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (NICEATM) and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC). The focus of the workshop is on current and future efforts to eliminate requirements for the acute toxicity 'six-pack' of in vivo studies (i.e., the set of six tests including: acute oral toxicity, acute dermal toxicity, acute inhalation toxicity, acute eye irritation, acute dermal irritation, and skin sensitization).

37th International Symposium on Halogenated Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). On August 22nd, NCEA will be represented at the 37th International Symposium on Halogenated Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) - DIOXIN 2017, with a presentation entitled "Current Approaches for Evaluating Potential Health Risks from Polychlorinated Biphenyls in Indoor School Air." This is part of a session entitled "PCBs in Buildings with an Emphasis on Schools in US and Canada".

4th International Symposium in Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. On August 23rd, NCEA scientists will provide training on the Health Assessment Workspace Collaborative (HAWC) toolkit at the 4th International Symposium in Systematic Review/Meta-analysis. Several NCEA scientists will be presenting at the meeting on the application of systematic review in the assessment of environmental chemicals.

PUBLICATIONS AND PRODUCT UPDATES

Benchmark Dose Software (BMDS) version 2.7. NCEA scientists will release Benchmark Dose Software (BMDS) version 2.7 by August 18, 2017. This release contains various bug fixes and enhancements, which continue BMDS's evolution as a mature, widely-used product. Additionally, users will see new features including BMDS models reporting the benchmark dose upper confidence limit (BMDU) in addition to the lower confidence limit (BMDL).

Estimated Maternal Pesticide Exposure from Drinking Water and Heart Defects in Offspring. Tom Luben, in collaboration with National Birth Defect Prevention Study (NBDPS) colleagues, recently published an analysis of atrazine and heart defects in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. The authors observed no positive associations between atrazine concentrations (high vs low) measured in public water supply districts and congenital heart defects. (DOI: 10.3390/ijerph14080889; <http://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/14/8/889>).

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